

# TRICARE Europe

## Release

*"Your passport to quality health"*

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### TRICARE for Active Duty Family Members Eligible to PCS Without Sponsor

Due to the temporary extension of tour lengths in Iraq for many 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division soldiers, affected family members in Europe scheduled for a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move this summer\* may be considering whether to remain overseas or return to the U.S. prior to the return of their Active Duty sponsor. Access to TRICARE health benefits is assured regardless of the option eligible family members choose.

TRICARE Europe Prime Active Duty family members eligible to PCS to the Continental U.S. without their sponsors will be treated as if their sponsors were with them. The move will be treated as a normal PCS. TRICARE Prime will be available at their new duty location if the family members choose this TRICARE option.

"Our priority is to make sure we take care of our beneficiaries at all times, regardless of deployments and contingencies," said Air Force Col. (Dr.) James Rundell, TRICARE Europe Executive Director. "If you're an Active Duty family member whose spouse is deployed, we guarantee you and your family will continue to have access to great health care wherever you live, whether from your local Military Treatment Facility or from one of TRICARE's top-notch preferred providers."

#### PCS Points to Remember

Once Active Duty family members PCS to the states without their sponsor, they must update their address in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). DEERS information may be verified or updated by contacting or visiting the nearest uniformed services personnel office. Beneficiaries may also contact the DEERS office at 1-800-538-9552, or visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/).

Individuals who are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) will be able to continue using the program while in CONUS. In the states, there are co-pays for all services except annual routine check-ups and cleanings. Beneficiaries may enroll in the TDP at any time. If beneficiaries are not enrolled in the TDP, they will face high out-of-pocket dental costs in CONUS regions. Beneficiaries can learn more about applicable co-pays and the TRICARE Dental Program at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com).

*\*According to new U.S. Army policy, advance return of family members is limited to sponsors scheduled for a summer rotation between May and September 2004 whose tour was extended and delayed due to mission requirements in Iraq. All other unit situations are considered in "stop movement" and official PCS families without the sponsor is not authorized.*

**Temporary Stops During PCS Move**

If Active Duty family members choose to stop while en route to their new PCS location at a location where Prime is not offered (more than 50 miles from a Military Treatment Facility, or MTF) and remain there for more than 60 days from their PCS “fly date,” they will automatically revert to TRICARE Standard on the 61<sup>st</sup> day.

If the temporary stop at an alternate location is for less than 60 days, family members will remain covered by TRICARE Europe Prime until they reach their new duty station. In either case, beneficiaries must visit the TRICARE Service Center at their new duty station as soon as they arrive to transfer their enrollment to their new TRICARE region.

**Remaining at OCONUS Location**

TRICARE Europe Prime Active Duty family members who choose to remain at their overseas location will continue to enjoy TRICARE Europe Prime benefits as usual. Increased deployments and preparations for possible contingency operations may affect the availability of appointments at some MTFs in Europe, but beneficiaries will continue to be seen by MTFs to the maximum extent possible. Beneficiaries who are referred to host nation providers can count on quality, competent medical care through the TRICARE Europe Preferred Provider Network (PPN).

**How to Get Help**

If beneficiaries have problems or questions about their health care in the TRICARE Europe region, they may contact their local TRICARE Service Center or the TRICARE Europe Centralized TRICARE Service Center at commercial 011-49-6302-67-7433/34 or toll free (from the U.S.) at 1-888-777-8343. In CONUS, they may also call the TRICARE Health Care Finder at (800) 242-6788.

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